

Message Text

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16

ACTION EUR-08

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R 231045Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5290

CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG

CINC EUR VAIHINGEN

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 20666

LIMDIS

ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PGOV, MOPS, WB, GE, US, UR

SUBJECT: EXFILTRATION COUNTERMEASURES

REF: USBERLIN 2507 DTG 101115Z DEC 75

1. AMBASSADOR STRONGLY CONCURS WITH USBER RECOMMENDATION THAT MEMBERS OF US FORCES WHO BECOME INVOLVED IN EXFILTRATION ACTIVITIES BE IMMEDIATELY TRANSFERRED FROM BERLIN AND FROM FRG AS WELL, AND THAT STEPS TO PREVENT FUTURE REASSIGNMENT OF SUCH OFFENDERS TO GERMANY BE CONSIDERED.

2. EXPEDITIOUS TRANSFERS WOULD PRESUMABLY BE EASIER IF JUDICIAL ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN AGAINST OFFENDERS, AND WE BELIEVE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH ACTION SHOULD BE CAREFULLY EXAMINED IN EACH CASE. WE ARE MINDFUL OF THE DIFFICULTIES, SINCE THE ESSENCE OF THE OBJECTIONABLE ACTION -- ASSISTING IN AN ESCAPE FROM A POLICE STATE -- IS NOT CRIMINAL IN WESTERN EYES. THE DEFENSE IN A TRIAL WOULD
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OBTAIN BUILD UPON THAT ASPECT OF AN EXFILTRATION CASE

TO ATTEMPT TO PORTRAY THE ACCUSED AS A HUMANITARIAN
HERO RATHER THAN AN OFFENDER. PUNISHMENT FOR VIOLATION
OF THE MILITARY REGULATIONS INVOLVED MIGHT, HOWEVER,
HAVE A DETERRENT EFFECT.

3. THE PERSONNEL WHOSE ACTIVITIES ARE OF CONCERN TO THE
US GOVERNMENT ARE, OF COURSE, OFTEN NOT MOTIVATED BY
HUMANITARIAN CONCERNS BUT BY THE LARGE FINANCIAL REWARDS
FOR ASSISTING THE EXFILTRATION RINGS. ASIDE
FROM COMPLICATING US RELATIONS WITH THE GDR, SUCH
ACTIVITIES HAVE IN THE PAST RESULTED IN SOVIET THREATS
TO ALLIED RIGHTS OF ACCESS. THIS POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO
OUR FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS ARGUES FOR PROMPT REMOVAL
OF OFFENDERS FROM GERMANY, IF ADMINISTRATIVE MEANS FOR
DOING SO CAN BE FOUND EVEN IN THE ABSENCE OF JUDICIAL
ACTION.

4. WHILE RECOGNIZING THE PROBLEMS MILITARY COMMANDS
MAY FACE IN IMPLEMENTING SUCH A TRANSFER AND ASSIGNMENT
POLICY, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS URGENT STUDY OF THE
POSSIBILITIES FOR DOING SO, WITH A VIEW TO ELIMINATING
THIS POSSIBLE DANGER TO OUR POSITION IN BERLIN.
HILLENBRAND

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